

Policy Change Considerations for the Prohibition of Broadcast Fertilization in the CAR Forest Protocol 3.1

All forest projects in the protocol prohibit the use of broadcast fertilization without any direct or indirect discussion as to why. Before we can fully address this issue with constructive alternatives, it would be helpful to understand the reason(s) why this policy choice was made.

One possibility is the fact that the use of fertilizer could increase in forest and HWP carbon storage, but that in an offset context, that increase in carbon stocks would not be appropriate for crediting since the emissions associated with fertilizer production (presumably significant) are not accounted for.

If this is indeed the case, we might consider developing a way to properly account for the emissions associated with fertilizer production and then discount that against any credits earned for landowners who choose to utilize broadcast fertilization as part of their management regime.

It also appears that the prohibition of broadcast fertilization is specific to the project area which gives landowners some flexibility if they choose to utilize fertilizers and participate in a carbon project. This assumption should be confirmed.